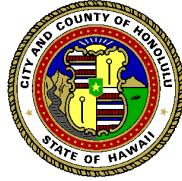


HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

650 SOUTH KING STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
Phone: (808) 723-7321 Fax: (808) 723-7397

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



CHARLOTTE NEKOTA  
CHAIR

MAX HANNEMANN  
VICE-CHAIR

DENNIS MORTON

WILLIAM HONG

NICHOLAS TEVES

CRAIG NAGAMINE

DAVID MATLIN

Minutes of Regular Public Meeting  
Honolulu Fire Department Headquarters  
Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium  
Wednesday, January 19, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Nekota called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlotte Nekota, Max Hannemann, William Hong, Nicholas Teves, Craig Nagamine.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dennis Morton and David Matlin.

IN ATTENDANCE: Fire Chief Sheldon K. Hao (HFD), Deputy Fire Chief Jason Samala (HFD), Brian Ancheta (Department of the Corporation Counsel), and Nadine Murata. The public was allowed to participate through audio and video-teleconference.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ALL AGENDA ITEMS.

Chair Nekota asked the public if there was anyone who would like to testify. There were none.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2021.

Chair Nekota called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of November 17, 2021. Vice-Chair Hannemann moved and Commissioner Nagamine seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2021.

Chair Nekota called for any comments or corrections to the executive session minutes of November 17, 2021. Vice-Chair Hannemann moved and Commissioner Hong seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.

#### V. APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2021.

Chair Nekota called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of December 14, 2021. Vice-Chair Hannemann moved and Commissioner Nagamine seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.

#### VI. REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF. Fire Chief Hao passed out his monthly report and 2021 Annual Executive Report and highlighted the following:

Fire Chief Hao introduced Chief Samala as his Deputy Fire Chief to the Commission.

##### A. Major Incidents.

Fire Chief Hao went over major incidents with the Commission. Details can be found in the monthly report.

##### 1. Fires.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned that there were 6 structure fires.

##### 2. Rescues.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned that there were 16 rescues relating to lost/stranded hikers, rescuing of residents in flooded homes and rescuing of boys in Palolo stream.

##### 3. Vacancies as of October 31, 2021.

Fire Chief Hao went over vacancies with the Commission and mentioned that there are 120 vacancies within the department with 59 retirements in 2021.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned there are 55 recruits who are still in class with 4 who will be completing their training in March.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned the other 32 recruits will be graduating in June/July.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned a new recruit class will commence in July with 55 recruits.

Chair Nekota asked if the department receives a lot of applicants.

Fire Chief Hao answered yes, a one-day recruitment will yield 400-5000 applications.

Chair Nekota asked if some of the applicants are from Honolulu Community College.

Fire Chief Hao answered there is a Fighter Fire Recruit I and Fire Fighter Recruit II class and the department will be starting a third class which will be a hybrid class which is a combination of Fire Fighter Recruit I and Fire Fighter Recruit II and will start in June.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned due to vacancies in the department it will be promoting 4 Assistant Chiefs and 11 Battalion Chiefs.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned that there were 42 applicants for Battalion Chiefs and interviews will begin in February with placement in March.

#### Injuries.

Fire Chief Hao went over injuries and exposure incidents with the Commission. Details can be found in the monthly report.

#### 4. Grievances.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned currently there was 1 filed grievance which was settled and 22 pending grievances.

#### 5. Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA).

Fire Chief Hao mentioned that no meetings were held with HFFA but the department continues to conduct consultations and constant communications (with at least weekly talks).

Fire Chief Hao also reported on the following:

1. During the month of October, HFD received 2 complimentary correspondence and 2 complaints. Details can be found in the monthly report.

Commissioner Nagamine asked about hiking rescues.

Fire Chief Hao referred to the 2021 Annual Executive Report, page 8 and went over the rescue incident chart with the Commission.

Commissioner Hong expressed his concerns regarding hiking rescues and the danger to the department of having to rescue nighttime hikers.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned the Captains determine if the pilots can rescue safely in those conditions.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned the department will continue to educate the public on hiking safety.

Fire Chief Hao asked the Commission to review the 2021 Annual Executive Report and should there be any questions it can be brought up at the next meeting.

Vice-Chair Hannemann asked about Omicron incidents.

Fire Chief Hao answered the department has not seen an increase in incidents but it has impacted the department's in-house staffing. Between December 15 – 31, there were 70 who were in quarantine/isolation. Currently the department is educating its personnel on social distancing and the use of N95 masks as cloth masks will not provide public safety.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned the department tries to have 270 personnel on duty per day but during the spike it was down to 245 with overtime. Currently the department is in the 260's range.

Chair Nekota asked for a follow-up regarding Commissioner Teves's request regarding Chief Camara's picture and plaque on the wall.

Fire Chief Hao answered he will look into it.

Chair Nekota asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Nagamine made a motion to move the Commission's February meeting to March to let the new administration get settled and Commissioner Hong seconded. There being no further comments and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved said motion.

VII. ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE FIRE CHIEF.

Vice-Chair Hannemann moved and Commissioner Nagamine seconded that the Commission go into executive session regarding the annual evaluation of the Fire Chief to “consult with the board’s attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board’s powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities” with regard to these matters [HRS Sec. 92-5(a)(4)]. By unanimous vote, the Commission went into executive session at 10:53 a.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 11:02 a.m.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT: The next monthly Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. in the Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, Commissioner Hong moved and Commissioner Nagamine seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned on January 19, 2022 at 11: 02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

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CHARLOTTE NEKOTA, Chair